

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for her comments during a 27 May 2004, telephone interview.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-2, 4-14, 16-26, and 28-36 are pending in the Application. Claims 3, 15, and 27 have been canceled and Claims 1, 13, and 25 have been amended. It should be noted that Applicant has elected to amend said Claims solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (9/8/00). In making this amendment, Applicant has not and does not in any way narrow the scope of protection to which Applicant considers the invention herein to be entitled and does not concede, in any way, that the subject matter of such Claims was in fact taught or disclosed by the cited prior art. Rather, Applicant reserves Applicant's right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seeks to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

II. ADVISORY ACTION

The Advisory Action objected to Claims 2-12, 14-24, and 26-36. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 13, and 25 to include the elements of Claims, 3, 15, and 27, respectively, as discussed with the Examiner during the 27 May 2004 telephone interview.

Claims 1, 13, and 25 are therefore allowable. Claims 2, 4-12, and 14, 16-24, and 26, 28-36 are dependent upon Claims 1, 13, and 25, respectively, and are allowable.

III. CONCLUSIONS & MISCELLANEOUS

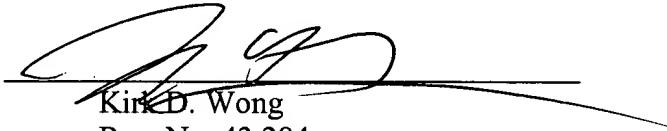
For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the art of record, including the art cited but not applied. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on May 28, 2004

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